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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1059
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0743
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 3684
RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY 1081
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1972
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2240
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RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/18/2019

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SUBJECT: LEBANON: HARIRI PROVIDES ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE ON
MAKLOUF, SHAWKAT FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

REF: A. BEIRUT 215
[1](#)B. DAMASCUS 70

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i. Michele J. Sison for Reasons: Section 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S/NF) In the course of a February 11 meeting with the Charge (Ref A), majority leader Saad Hariri and advisor Ghattas Khoury provided anecdotal information regarding alleged financial transactions of Rami Maklouf and Syrian Directory of Military Intelligence Asef Shawket. They alleged that Maklouf had assisted Syrian President Bashar Asad in moving funds out of Syria to Dubai. Most of the money was funneled through the Damascus airport he said. Maklouf also allegedly owns a hotel in Romania and other real estate in Dubai. Shawket reportedly facilitated the transfer of \$50 million from Qatar in Free Patriotic Movement leader General Michel Aoun's OTV, in the names of Aoun's daughters.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) As they have before, Hariri and Khoury urged that the USG designate Maklouf and Shawket as a means of punishing Syria for its interference in Lebanon and because their activities promote corruption.
SISON